

House Resolution 28

By: Representatives Benton of the 31st, Bearden of the 68th, Powell of the 29th, England of the 108th, Hatfield of the 177th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the bicentennial anniversary of General Robert Edward Lee's birth; and for other
2 purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Robert Edward Lee, who would become known as one of the most brilliant
4 military commanders in American history, was born to Revolutionary War hero Henry Lee III
5 and Anne Carter Lee at Stratford Hall in Virginia on January 19, 1807; and

6 WHEREAS, his first military assignment was to Cockspur Island, Georgia, to supervise the
7 construction of Fort Pulaski for a period of 17 months; and

8 WHEREAS, Robert Edward Lee was appointed superintendent of the United States Military
9 Academy at West Point in 1852 and was considered one of the best superintendents in the
10 history of the school; and

11 WHEREAS, he served in the United States Army for nearly 32 years and was offered the
12 command of the federal army at the outset of the War Between the States; and

13 WHEREAS, after suffering through a great deal of internal conflict, the general would
14 ultimately choose to share the fate of his homeland, the State of Virginia, stating that he could
15 not lift a hand against his own people; and

16 WHEREAS, Robert Edward Lee in November, 1861, would return to Georgia as a
17 brigadier-general in charge of the defenses on the coast of South Carolina, Georgia, and
18 Florida; and

19 WHEREAS, following the collapse of the Confederate States of America, he is reported to
20 have instructed his fellow Southerners, "If it had to be done over again, we should be compelled
21 to act in precisely the same manner"; and

1 WHEREAS, he accepted the position of President of Washington College in Lexington,
2 Virginia, where he strove to improve the plight of the war ravaged South through Christian
3 values, education, and the advancement of Southern youth; and

4 WHEREAS, Robert Edward Lee died on October 12, 1870, in Lexington, Virginia; and

5 WHEREAS, on January 19, 1871, the City of Savannah became the first city in America to
6 celebrate Robert Edward Lee's birthday as a public holiday and later, in 1889, the State of
7 Georgia would enact a law to make his birthday a state holiday; and

8 WHEREAS, when the late President Gerald Ford officially restored Robert Edward Lee's
9 citizenship in 1975, the president remarked, "General Lee's character has been an example to
10 succeeding generations, making the restoration of his citizenship an event in which every
11 American can take pride"; and

12 WHEREAS, this bicentennial commemoration offers an excellent opportunity to enhance
13 educational programs and encourage historical tourism within the state and will bring national
14 attention to the legacy of Robert Edward Lee and the State of Georgia.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that this
16 body does hereby recognize the year 2007 as the "Year of Lee" and enthusiastically supports
17 the organization, promotion, and attendance of any appropriate observances and
18 commemorations in the State of Georgia.

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and
20 directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Georgia Divisions of the Sons
21 of Confederate Veterans, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Children of the
22 Confederacy.